

	<h1>News Release</h1>	<p>Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest 2930 Wetmore Ave. Ste. 3A Everett, WA 98201 425-783-6000 Fax: 425-783-0212 www.fs.usda.gov/mbs</p>
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Monte Cristo Closure Aids Forest Service Cleanup at Historic Mining Area

Everett, Wash. April 30th, 2015 — Beginning May 4, 2015, the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest will close access to the Monte Cristo town site until rescinded. The closure will allow for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) clean-up project at Monte Cristo.

The Forest Service will be working to clean-up contaminated soil and water from the Monte Cristo mining area during this time. The closure will address public safety concerns during cleanup operations involving heavy equipment and the movement of contaminated material during the removal action conducted under CERCLA.

The closure will follow the South Fork Sauk River. This closure will include the Monte Cristo campground and former town site, Glacier Basin Trail #719 and the lower portion of trail #708 to Poodle Dog Pass. Silver and Twin Lakes are outside the closure area, but there is no alternate trail access to these areas. Hike-in camping spots along the upper South Fork Sauk River, such as Haps Hill, are also within the closure.

A map detailing the closure area is available at:

http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3836337.pdf

Alternative Trail Information

During the Monte Cristo closure, the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie invites the public to experience other recreational opportunities on the Forest's 1,500 miles of trails. Alternative recreation options can be found at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/mbs/recreation>

What is CERCLA?

"CERCLA" is the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980. CERCLA was enacted to enable the federal government to respond to or "clean up" sites that have releases or spills of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants to the environment. Forest Service Policy is to use Forest Service CERCLA authority and processes to respond at sites under Forest Service jurisdiction or control where hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants threaten human health or the environment. More information on the Monte Cristo CERCLA Clean up can be found at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/mbs/CERCLA>

For additional information about the Monte Cristo site clean-up project, contact the Forest Service On-Scene Coordinator Joseph Gibbens at jfgibbens@fs.fed.us

Learn more about the [Mt. Baker Snoqualmie National Forest](http://www.fs.usda.gov/mbs).